



Information Resource Centers

• The U.S. Diplomatic Mission

Leipzig

Newsletter for English Teachers April 2005

This Newsletter for English Teachers is a monthly publication by the Information Resource Centers in Germany. It focuses on American Studies topics of relevance to our academic audiences.

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National Poetry Month (April)

The goal of National Poetry Month has been to increase the visibility, presence, and accessibility of poetry in our culture. Inaugurated by the Academy of American Poets in April 1996, National Poetry Month (NPM) brings together publishers, booksellers, literary organizations, libraries, schools, and poets around the country to celebrate poetry and its vital place in American culture. April 2005 marks the 10th celebration of National Poetry Month.



Links: [About the USA > Arts > Literature](#)
<http://usa.usembassy.de/arts-literature.htm>

[The Academy of American Poets](#)
<http://www.poets.org/>

[Education World: Poetry Month](#)
http://www.educationworld.com/a_special/poetrymonth.shtml

[Library of Congress: Poetry 180: A Poem a Day for American High Schools](#)
<http://www.loc.gov/poetry/180/>

Poet Laureats of the United States

<http://www.loc.gov/poetry/laureate.html>

Twenty years ago, in 1985 the U. S. government created a title of poet laureate. The position previously existed under the title "Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress", and from 1986 forward as "Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry." It is to be held by the same person who holds the post of consultant in poetry for the Library of Congress. The appointments are annual, but renewable. The incumbents have maximum freedom to work on their own projects while at the Library, but they are expected to give an annual lecture and reading of his or her poetry. He or she usually introduces poets in the Library's annual poetry series. During his or her term, the Poet Laureate seeks to raise the national consciousness to a greater appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry.

The current poet laureate, Ted Kooser, was appointed in 2004. The author of ten collections of poetry was born in Ames, Iowa, in 1939. On making the appointment, Librarian of Congress James H. Billington said, "Ted Kooser is a major poetic voice for rural and small town America and the first Poet Laureate chosen from the Great Plains. His verse reaches beyond his native region to touch on universal themes in accessible ways."

Ted Kooser (Poetry.org)

<http://www.poets.org/poets/poets.cfm?45442B7C000C07060973>

Nebraska Center for Writers: Ted Kooser

<http://mockingbird.creighton.edu/NCW/kooser.htm>

Poets Who Have Held the Library of Congress Poetry Position, 1937-Present

- Joseph Auslander, 1937-1941
(Auslander's appointment to the Poetry chair had no fixed term)
- Allen Tate, 1943-1944
- Robert Penn Warren, 1944-1945
- Louise Bogan, 1945-1946
- Karl Shapiro, 1946-1947
- Robert Lowell, 1947-1948
- Leonie Adams, 1948-1949
- Elizabeth Bishop, 1949-1950
- Conrad Aiken, 1950-1952
(First to serve two terms)
- William Carlos Williams
(Appointed in 1952 but did not serve)
- Randall Jarrell, 1956-1958
- Robert Frost, 1958-1959
- Richard Eberhart, 1959-1961
- Louis Untermeyer, 1961-1963
- Howard Nemerov, 1963-1964
- Reed Whittemore, 1964-1965
- Stephen Spender, 1965-1966
- James Dickey, 1966-1968
- William Jay Smith, 1968-1970
- William Stafford, 1970-1971
- Josephine Jacobsen, 1971-1973
- Daniel Hoffman, 1973-1974
- Stanley Kunitz, 1974-1976
- Robert Hayden, 1976-1978
- William Meredith, 1978-1980
- Maxine Kumin, 1981-1982
- Anthony Hecht, 1982-1984
- Robert Fitzgerald, 1984-1985
(Appointed and served in a health-limited capacity, but did not come to the Library of Congress)
- Reed Whittemore, 1984-1985
(Interim Consultant in Poetry)
- Gwendolyn Brooks, 1985-1986
- Robert Penn Warren, 1986-1987
(First to be designated Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry)
- Richard Wilbur, 1987-1988
- Howard Nemerov, 1988-1990
- Mark Strand, 1990-1991
- Joseph Brodsky, 1991-1992
- Mona Van Duyn, 1992-1993
- Rita Dove, 1993-1995
- Robert Hass, 1995-1997
- Robert Pinsky, 1997-2000
(First to serve three consecutive terms)
- Special Bicentennial Consultants, 1999-2000: Rita Dove, Louise Glück, and W.S. Merwin
- Stanley Kunitz, 2000-2001
- Billy Collins, 2001-2003
- Louise Glück, 2003-2004
- Ted Kooser, 2004-

Earth Day: April 22, 2005

Earth Day, which began in 1970, is now celebrated by millions of people worldwide. This year is its 35th anniversary, and around the world, hundreds of thousands of nongovernmental organizations, governments, teachers, and faith-based groups, among others, are making plans to express their environmental commitment.



Links: USINFO: Earth Day Archive

http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/environment/earth_day/earth_day_archive.html

USINFO: Climate Change - Fact Sheet

http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/climate_change/climate_fact.html

About the USA: Science & Technology > Environmental Technology
<http://usa.usembassy.de/technology-environment.htm>

National Environmental Education Week
<http://www.epa.gov/teachers/>

Gateway to Educational Material: Earth Day
<http://www.thegateway.org/>

Envirolink: Environmental Resources
<http://www.envirolink.org/>

Religions of America

The United States has a greater number of religious groups than any other country in the world. The top organized religions in 2001 were: Christianity (76.5%), Judaism (1.3%), Islam (0.5%), Buddhism (0.5%) and Hinduism (0.4%).

About the USA: U.S. Society > Religions
<http://usa.usembassy.de/society-religion.htm>

Largest religious groups in the United States
http://www.adherents.com/rel_USA.html#religions

Statistical Abstracts 2004: Religious Bodies
http://usa.usembassy.de/etexts/stab2004/pop_churches.pdf

New Electronic Publication

Today's Nuclear Equation
<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itps/0305/ijpe/ijpe0305.htm>

"Since the end of the Cold War, the main barrier hemming in the nuclear nightmare has been the 35-year-old Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Under its terms, a review conference is held ever five years to assess the status of nuclear proliferation dangers and nonproliferation progress. The next month-long review begins on May 2 in New York City.

This electronic journal, "Today's Nuclear Equation," is published in advance of the conference to offer the U.S. position on critical treaty-related issues as well as a range of expert opinion on the thorniest current issues in nuclear nonproliferation".

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
<http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Treaties/npt.html>



**Liberation
The Americans in Leipzig**

Exhibition from April 17 - May 22, 2005

Stadtgeschichtliches Museum Leipzig

Neubau, Böttchergässchen 3

04109 Leipzig

www.leipzig.de/stadtmuseum

**Presentation on Photographer Robert Capa –
Life and Work of an American Reporter**

Speaker: Richard Whelan, New York

Monday, April 18, 2005, 19:00

Altes Rathaus, Festsaal

*The Wilde Ones
proudly present*

The Man Who Came To Dinner

By Moss Hart & George S. Kaufman

April 8th 2005 - 8:00 AM

April 10th 2005 - 6:00 PM

Theater K - Otto-Schill Strasse 7

* Advanced Booking - 4,50 / 5,50 (Campus Service /Uni-Innenhof) * At the Door - 5,50 / 6,50 *

The Wilde Ones are back! After last year's great success with a version of Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*, the Wilde Ones have a new production lined up.

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